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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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For Immediate Release

PIGGYBACK TRAFFIC REMAINS STRONG

WASHINGTON, January 14, 1986 -- For the second consecutive year, the number of trailers and containers loaded in piggyback service on major U.S. railroads exceeded 4.5 million. The 1985 total of 4,515,878, the second highest year on record, was 1.1 percent lower than 1984, but 10.4 percent higher than 1983, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

TOFC/COFC loadings accounted for 14.5 percent of total rail carloadings in 1985 and remained second only to coal -- the traditional leader -- as a source of railroad traffic.

Trailers and containers loaded during the holiday week ended December 28 totaled 61,288 up 13.2 percent over the corresponding week of 1984.

The AAR also reported that total freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the New Year's holiday week ended January 4 totaled 12.9 billion ton-miles, 6.5 percent above the corresponding holiday week of 1985.

Total carloadings on major railroads for the January 4 week were 271,373, up 3.4 percent from the comparable week of 1985, and 9.1 percent higher than the preceding Christmas week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 8.8 percent in the West, but down 1.1 percent in the East, and 1.5 percent in the South.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/04/86:

	Loadings in Week ended January 4, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,783	I	2,784	15.5	I	3,445	19.9
Other farm products	3,178	D	257	7.5	I	314	11.0
Metallic ores	6,890	D	1,249	15.3	D	1,435	17.2
Coal	80,242	I	2,620	3.4	I	8,159	11.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,461	I	594	8.7	I	2,404	47.5
Nonmetallic minerals	7,320	D	1,854	20.2	I	356	5.1
Grain mill products	8,496	I	263	3.2	I	294	3.6
Food and kindred products	7,450	D	356	4.6	I	183	2.5
Primary forest products	8,923	D	457	4.9	I	3,152	54.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,644	I	623	15.5	I	321	7.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,163	D	549	4.3	I	1,907	18.6
Chemicals and allied products	21,013	I	1,363	6.9	I	1,030	5.2
Petroleum products	4,187	I	620	17.4	I	475	12.8
Stone, clay and glass products	7,376	I	74	1.0	I	1,372	22.9
Coke	4,695	I	622	15.3	I	411	9.6
Metals and products	7,341	I	1,199	19.5	I	1,305	21.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	7,329	D	3,212	30.5	D	2,812	27.7
Waste and scrap materials	5,357	I	177	3.4	I	1,182	28.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,972	D	176	4.2	I	163	4.3
All other carloads	42,486	I	6,188	17.0	I	463	1.1
ICL traffic	67	D	70	51.1	D	3	4.3
Total Cars Loaded	271,373	I	8,947	3.4	I	22,686	9.1
Corresponding week of 1985	262,426						

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):	1986	1985		
Week ended January 4	12.9	12.1	I	6.5

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